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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/68/830) and the report of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment (A/C.5/68/22). During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 26 April 2014.

2. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/19 B, the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment met from 20 to 31 January 2014 to conduct a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates and standards for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services deployed to United Nations field operations. He further indicates that 344 technical, financial and medical experts from 84 Member States participated in the 2014 Working Group.

3. In its report (A/C.5/68/22), the 2014 Working Group proposed new standards, definitions and reimbursement rates for the major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services categories. The report provides a summary of the discussions and contains recommendations. In his report, the Secretary-General sets out the cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the Working Group and includes, in annex I thereto, a summary of the recommendations contained in the Working Group's report. The Secretary-General recommends approval of all the recommendations. In annex II to his report, the Secretary-General sets out the estimated financial implications for 2014/15 of each measure that would require additional resources. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of**

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the recommendations of the 2014 Working Group contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

4. The Advisory Committee makes the following observations and comments on aspects of the recommendations of the 2014 Working Group contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

5. The Secretary-General indicates that, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the 2014 Working Group with effect from 1 July 2014, additional resource requirements estimated in the total amount of $20,594,632 would be required for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The additional resources comprise an increase of 0.59 per cent in requirements for major equipment ($2,918,398), an increase of 0.73 per cent for self-sustainment ($2,477,429), a gynaecology basic module for level II hospitals ($103,097), additional diagnostic equipment for forward medical teams ($2,204,499), additional equipment to fully equip ambulances ($391,209) and rotation of non-functioning and older contingent-owned equipment at United Nations expense ($12,500,000).

6. The Advisory Committee was informed (see also A/68/830, para. 7) that the total estimated cost implications for 2014/15 of $5,396,000, comprising $2,918,398 for major equipment and $2,477,429 for self-sustainment, represented the difference between the total requirements for contingent-owned equipment included in the 2014/15 budget estimates for each peacekeeping mission and the revised estimated requirements, based on existing mandates for peacekeeping operations, planned deployments of contingents for 2014/15, equipment and self-sustainment required under signed and draft memorandums of understanding as at 1 April 2014 and existing levels of unserviceable and absent equipment.

7. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the calculation of the estimates of the financial implications of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 Working Group was based on the above-mentioned budget parameters applied in preparing the 2014/15 proposed budgets for all peacekeeping missions except the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, for which 2013/14 parameters were used owing to the uncertainty regarding the requirements of the Mission in the upcoming financial period. Furthermore, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, established by the Security Council on 14 April 2014, was not included in the calculation.

8. With regard to forward medical teams and the recommendation of the 2014 Working Group that troop- and police-contributing countries deploying a level I medical facility be required to ensure deployment with two sets of essential diagnostic equipment, the Advisory Committee was informed that the additional proposed requirement of $2,204,499 would cover the costs of one additional set of diagnostic equipment for each of the 286 level I hospitals deployed to peacekeeping operations as at 1 April 2014. Further details on the proposed requirements for the implementation of the recommendations regarding the basic gynaecology module and full equipment of ambulances are provided in paragraphs 12 and 16, respectively, of the report of the Secretary-General.

9. With regard to information and communications technology support, the Advisory Committee was informed that peacekeeping missions provided troop- and police-contributing countries with strategic communications links and end user

equipment and services required to ensure a connection between the mission headquarters and all force headquarters, battalion headquarters and independent military companies. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report, details on the actual information and communications technology equipment and Internet access made available to military and police contingents at each peacekeeping mission.**